

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:810
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2002
BOUND RATE TARIFF ON EDIBLE OILS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has opposed the WTO Swiss formula for proposed reduction of bound rate tariffs on edible oils;
- (b) whether due to volatile fluctuations in international edible oil markets it would be advantageous to India to have a flexible mechanism when the bound rates are high; and
- (c) if so, the Government's reaction to the Swiss proposal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (c) : As part of the on-going negotiations in agriculture in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United States and some other Members of the WTO favour steep reductions in tariffs on the basis of a 'Swiss Formula'. Modifications to the 'Swiss Formula' have also been suggested for developing countries by some Members. India supports minimal reductions in tariffs on a bound rate basis for developing countries and flexibility to address specific concerns of domestic agricultural production and of our farmers.